CHARLTON COMICS
All NEW Stories • All NEW Art
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GHOSTLY HAUNTS
ECHOES OF THE SPIRIT WORLD
GHOSTLY HAUNTS
NO. 24
APR
CDC
ONLY 20¢
"A MAN WHO WAS HERE"
00772

MILITARY MEN...
She deserves GENUINE DIAMONDS
...from NATIONAL Diamond Sales

401 - 15th Street • Oakland, Calif. 94612

* WHERE YOUR CREDIT IS GOOD! *

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15 flashing diamonds in a lavish 14K gold setting.
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Send Item _____ Price $_____

Ring Size _____ I will pay $_____ monthly.

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Military Address _____

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Parent's Name _____

Address, City, State _____

Sweetheart or Wife's Name _____

Her Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send item to ☐ Me ☐ Sweetheart or Wife

RING SIZE

Clip out—wrap finger—mark line at arrow point—mail with coupon

THIS IS A CATCHY LITTLE TALE OF A SPINELESS (AREN'T THEY ALL??) BOOKKEEPER WHO'D BEEN BULLIED AS A CHILD, BULLIED MORE AS A YOUTH, AND WHEN HE BECAME A MAN.. WELL, THAT NEVER REALLY HAPPENED.. OR, AT LEAST, CURBERT SMITH NEVER BECAME MUCH OF A MAN!
BUT, THERE'S MORE TO CURBERT SMITH THAN MEETS MOST EYES.. IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY YOU MAY BE ONE OF THE UNLUCKY PEOPLE WHO CAN SEE CURBERT'S FRIEND ...AND YOUR ENEMY! I SEE HIM AS....
THE OTHER ONE!
..BECAUSE I PITY YOU, YOU SAD LITTLE EXCUSE FOR A MAN, THAT I DON'T THROW YOU OUT OF HERE BODILY! STAY LATER AND FINISH THAT INVENTORY.. AND DON'T DARE PUT IN FOR OVERTIME!
IF ONLY I WERE BIG AND STRONG..I'D KILL HIM!
I'D TEAR HIM LIMB FROM LIMB!
HE'S A THIEF... DEFRAUDING THE COMPANY OF... THOUSANDS!
CURBERT WORKED ON..WHILE BEHIND HIS BACK... "THE OTHER ONE MADE HIS MOVE! POOR J.P. BIGMOUTH TOOK ONE LOOK AND...
NO...I...I....
GHOSTLY HAUNTS
D-2661

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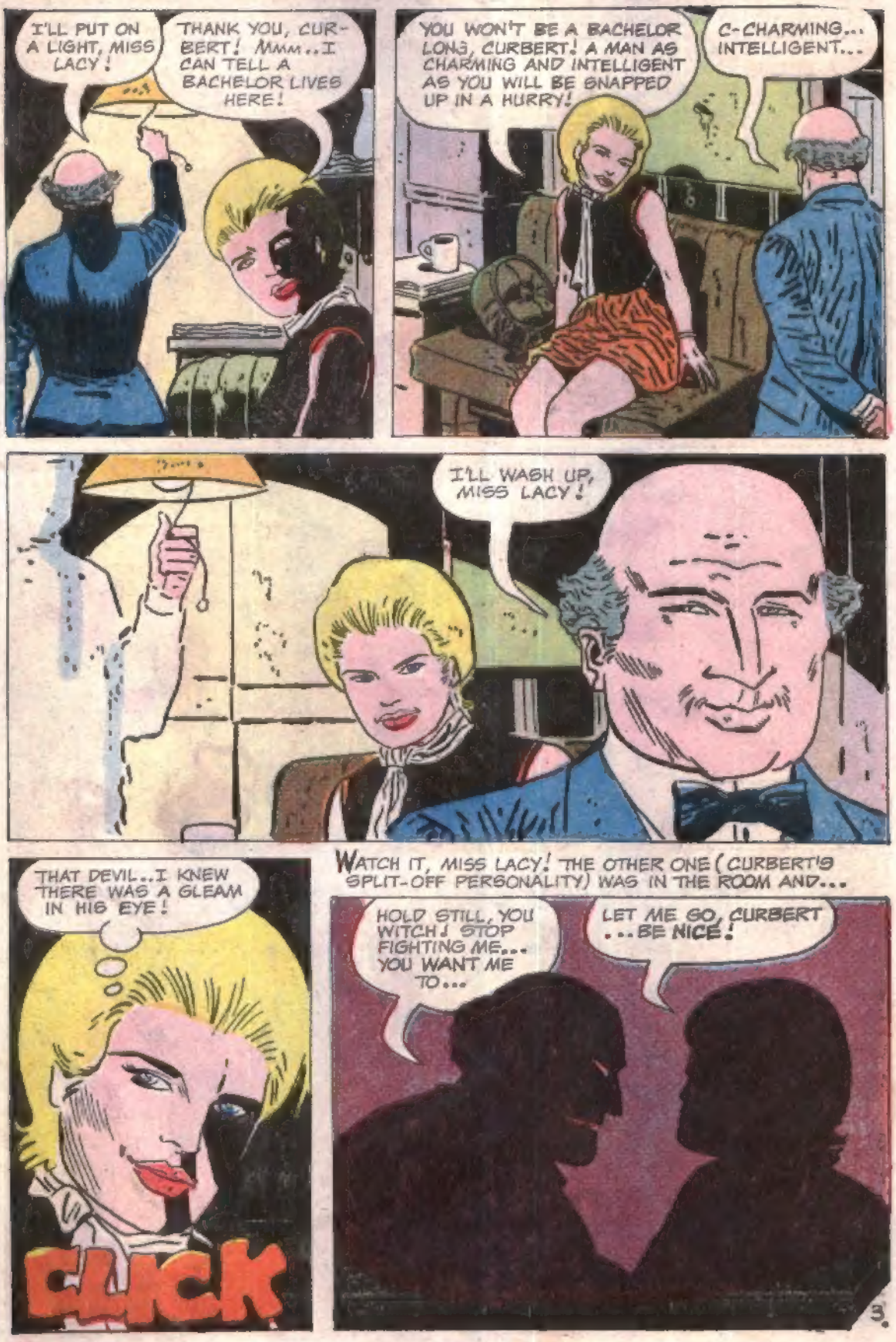
CURBERT HEARD THE BODY FALL (YES, THE THIEVING TYRANT WAS DEAD) HIT THE FLOOR AND TURNED...
MR. BIGMOUTH! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
MISS LACY! CALL DR. MILLS! HURRY!
THIS MAN'S HEART STOPPED BEATING.. DISTENDED PUPILS.. INDICATIONS OF EXCESSIVE ADRENALIN.. HE DIED OF ACUTE FEAR!
I KNOW THIS IS TERRIBLE FOR YOU, CURBERT! I HAVE A CAR.. LET ME DRIVE YOU HOME!
Y-YOU'RE VERY KIND, MISS LACY!
MISS LACY LOVES THE LITTLE BOOKKEEPER.. BECAUSE HE'S SO GOOD-SO HELPLESS.. SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT OTHER ONE!
DID YOU EVER HAVE A DATE WITH A REAL GIRL, CURBERT?
A..A DATE? OH, NO, MISS LACY..I'M A LITTLE SHY!
TH..THERE'S NO ONE ELSE HOME, MISS LACY.. PERHAPS..I'D BETTER NOT ASK YOU IN!
CURBERT..I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!
2.


I'LL PUT ON A LIGHT, MISS LACY!
THANK YOU, CURBERT! MMM..I CAN TELL A BACHELOR LIVES HERE!
YOU WON'T BE A BACHELOR LONG, CURBERT! A MAN AS CHARMING AND INTELLIGENT AS YOU WILL BE SNAPPED UP IN A HURRY!
C-CHARMING... INTELLIGENT...
I'LL WASH UP, MISS LACY!
THAT DEVIL..I KNEW THERE WAS A GLEAM IN HIS EYE!
CLICK
WATCH IT, MISS LACY! THE OTHER ONE (CURBERT'S SPLIT-OFF PERSONALITY) WAS IN THE ROOM AND...
HOLD STILL, YOU WITCH! STOP FIGHTING ME... YOU WANT ME TO...
LET ME GO, CURBERT ...BE NICE!

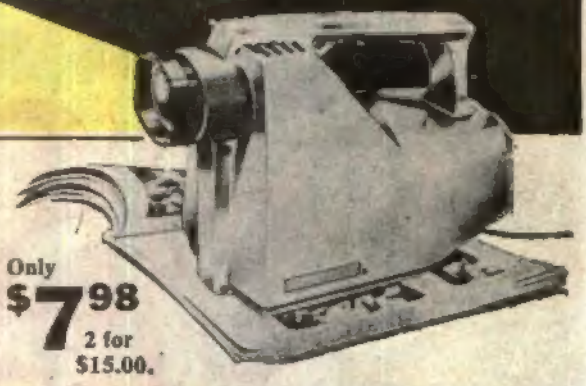
DID YOU CALL, MISS LACY?
CURBERT! I THOUGHT Y..YOU SAID YOU WERE ALONE IN THE HOUSE?
WE ARE ALONE, MISS LACY!
WELL IF WE ARE, CURBERT, THEN YOU'RE A TIGER.. IF SOMEONE ELSE IS HERE THEN I'M FRIGHTENED! IN EITHER CASE WE'D BETTER GO!
YOU SAW THAT THING, DIDN'T YOU? CURBERT'S SCHIZO SHADOW THAT SCARED J. P. BIGMOUTH TO DEATH... AND SWEPT MISS LACY OFF HER FEET! WELL, CURBERT DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT HIM....
CURBERT, YOU'RE A VERY TALENTED MAN! YOU'RE GOING TO BE A BIG SUCCESS!
DO YOU LIKE MY PERFUME?
I.. DIDN'T REALLY NOTICE IT, MISS LACY!
CURBERT..YOU RASCAL!
YOU'RE A DEVIL!
I AM? HERE'S YOUR PURSE.. YOU DROPPED IT ON THE FLOOR!
4.

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

PROJECTS ANY FLAT IMAGE (4" wide or less)
UP TO 6 FEET WIDE FOR A "HOME THEATRE" ON YOUR WALL!

AMAZING HOME THEATRE

6-FT



Now . . . project a modest 4" wide illustration—and enlarge it monumentally up to 324 times its original picture area . . . breathtakingly sharp and clear! Home Theatre projects anything flat—magazine or book pages, photos, drawings, coins, stamps, etc.—in crisp black-and-white or beautiful true-to-life color! Has adjustable professional-type lenses. Uses ordinary light bulb. Great fun for all ages . . . educational for children! U.L. listed — safe and simple to operate! **(Only $7.98; 2 for $15.00.)**

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Year's biggest binocular bargain

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Only an astounding import purchase enables us to bring you these handsome, high-power field glasses at such a remarkable rock-bottom price! They'll make you feel as though you're enjoying a front row seat at your favorite sports events, concerts and the theatre. Take them along when you go hunting, sailing, bird-watching. Ideal for young and old alike . . . at this bargain price, you can get a pair for every member of the family!

Make Distant Views Appear Close-Up!

These high-power, non-prismatic binoculars are precision-made . . . have an easy-to-adjust center focus wheel for clear, sharp images that make distant views seem close. Amazingly lightweight (only 8 ounces!) yet strong enough to withstand even rough handling. Sent to you complete with shoulder strap and four protective lens hoods. Attractively boxed . . . a timely gift for friends and family. Order today while our current supply lasts. Once these are gone, we cannot promise to maintain our incredibly low price of only $4.99.

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- ☐ Check or ☐ money order enclosed for $ N.Y. residents add sales tax.

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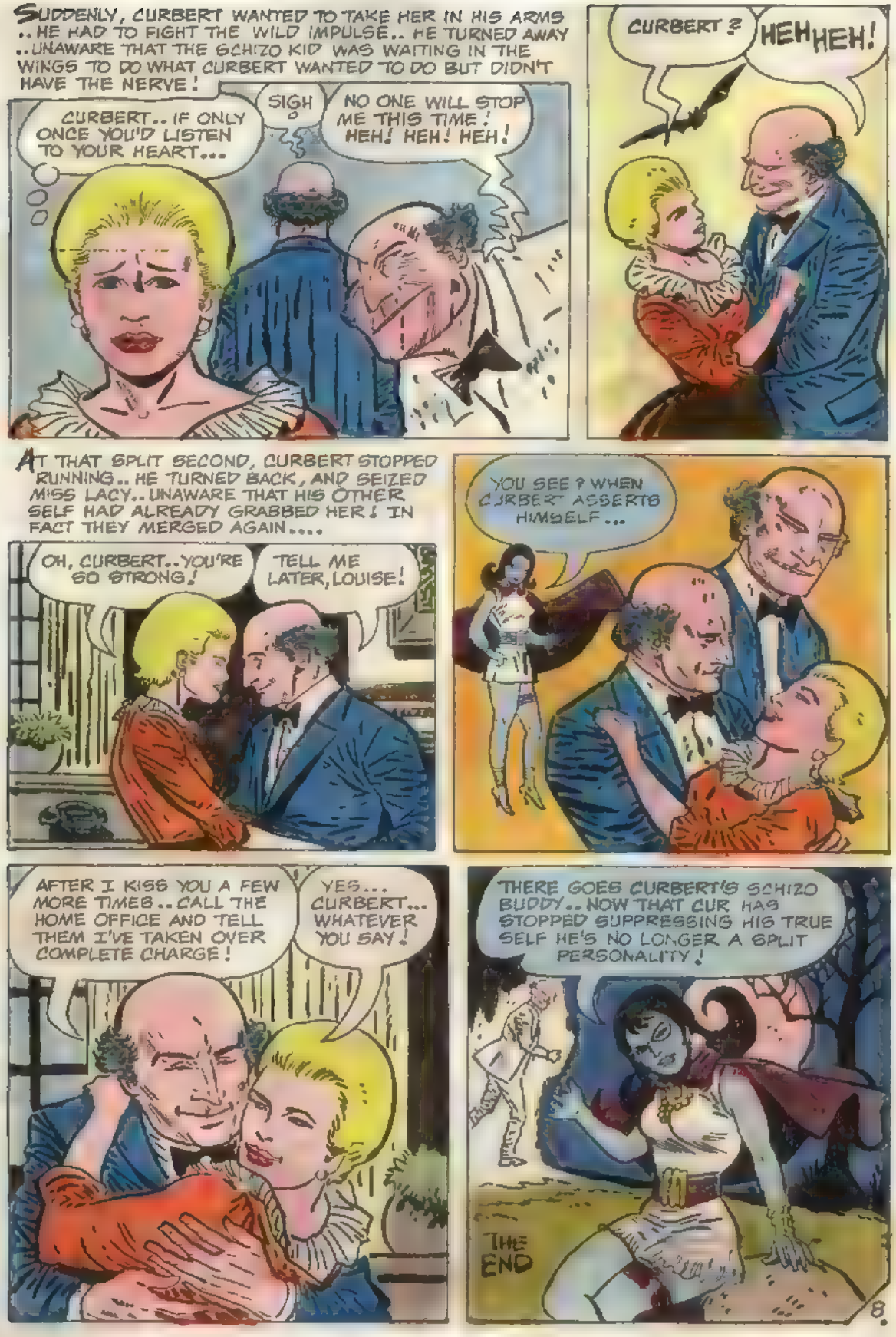
State _____ Zip _____

CURBERT HAD NEVER BEEN AS HAPPY... SITTING THERE WITH MISS LACY, A GIRL HE'D SECRETLY LOVED FOR A LONG TIME, HE DREAMED DREAMS HE KNEW COULD NEVER COME TRUE!
TO US, CURBERT!
IF I MARRIED HER.. WE COULD LIVE IN MY HOUSE ..SHE'D FIX IT ANY WAY SHE LIKED!
SHE'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD!
HEY, GORGEOUS, WOT ARE YOU DOIN' WITH TH' CREEP?
SKIN-HEAD, TAKE A WALK..I'LL TAKE THE LITTLE LADY HOME!
YOU CERTAINLY WILL NOT! CURBERT, DON'T QUARREL WITH HIM..I WANT TO LEAVE ANYHOW!
YOU'RE SMART, BABY..TAKIN' HIM OUTSIDE WHERE I CAN WORK HIM OVER RIGHT!
PAY NO ATTENTION TO HIM, CURBERT!
NOW, BRIGHT-EYES ..I'M GONNA BASH YER FACE IN!
POLICE! HELP!
KC

SEE THIS, PAL...YOU'RE GONNA GET IT RIGHT IN THE MOUTH!
GULP!
HELP! HE'S KILLIN' ME!
YOU GET IT IN THE MOUTH, FRIEND!
KR
WHAT HAPPENED? I FEEL FAINT...
CURBERT! OH, CURBERT ..YOU KNOCKED HIM OUT! I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!
I DID? YOU ARE?
YOU'RE WONDERFUL!
6.

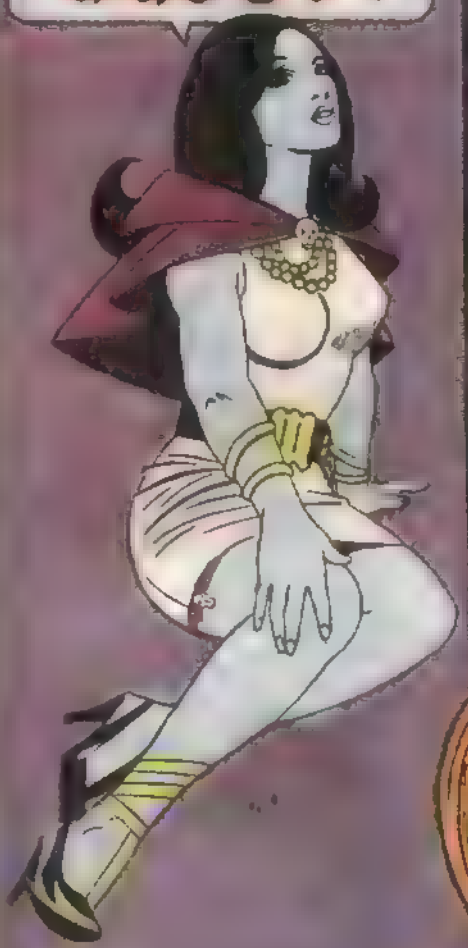
AT THE OFFICE, CURBERT WAS MEEKER THAN EVER!
UNTIL THE HOME OFFICE APPOINTS A SUCCESSOR TO J.P. BIGMOUTH.. I AM TAKING CHARGE! CURBERT, GET BUSY ON YOUR LEDGERS .. MISS LACY COME INTO MY OFFICE WITH ME!
MR. SLAUBB WILL PROBABLY GET BIGMOUTH'S JOB!
MR. SLAUBB .. YOU CERTAINLY ARE CLUMSY!
THIS IS TOO MUCH!
ATTENTION EVERYONE! MR. SLAUBB'S GOING TO HAVE TO GO HOME TO TIDY UP.. MR. CURBERT SMITH WILL BE IN CHARGE UNTIL SLAUBB RETURNS!
I AM?
OF COURSE I AM!
YOU ALMOST LET THAT SLAUBB WALK OFF WITH THE BOSS'S JOB! YOU'RE LUCKY HE TRIPPED.. BUT FROM NOW ON YOU'VE GOT TO STOP BEING SUCH A... NINNY!
7.


SUDDENLY, CURBERT WANTED TO TAKE HER IN HIS ARMS .. HE HAD TO FIGHT THE WILD IMPULSE.. HE TURNED AWAY .. UNAWARE THAT THE SCHIZO KID WAS WAITING IN THE WINGS TO DO WHAT CURBERT WANTED TO DO BUT DIDN'T HAVE THE NERVE!
CURBERT.. IF ONLY ONCE YOU'D LISTEN TO YOUR HEART...
SIGH
NO ONE WILL STOP ME THIS TIME! HEH! HEH! HEH!
CURBERT?
HEHHEH!
AT THAT SPLIT SECOND, CURBERT STOPPED RUNNING.. HE TURNED BACK, AND SEIZED MISS LACY.. UNAWARE THAT HIS OTHER SELF HAD ALREADY GRABBED HER! IN FACT THEY MERGED AGAIN....
OH, CURBERT.. YOU'RE SO STRONG!
TELL ME LATER, LOUISE!
YOU SEE? WHEN CURBERT ASSERTS HIMSELF...
AFTER I KISS YOU A FEW MORE TIMES.. CALL THE HOME OFFICE AND TELL THEM I'VE TAKEN OVER COMPLETE CHARGE!
YES... CURBERT... WHATEVER YOU SAY!
THERE GOES CURBERT'S SCHIZO BUDDY.. NOW THAT CUR HAS STOPPED SUPPRESSING HIS TRUE SELF HE'S NO LONGER A SPLIT PERSONALITY!
THE END

Winnie the Witch

SHHHH, HUSH, DEAR READER..... WE'RE COMING IN ON A SEANCE BEING CONDUCTED BY DR. ABUT BEY, SPIRITUALIST, CON ARTIST, AND FAKE, WHO, WITH A FEW OF HIS GIMMICKS TAKEN FROM A BAG OF TRICKS, HOPES TO PRODUCE AND COMMUNICATE WITH.....

THE FOURTH GUEST!



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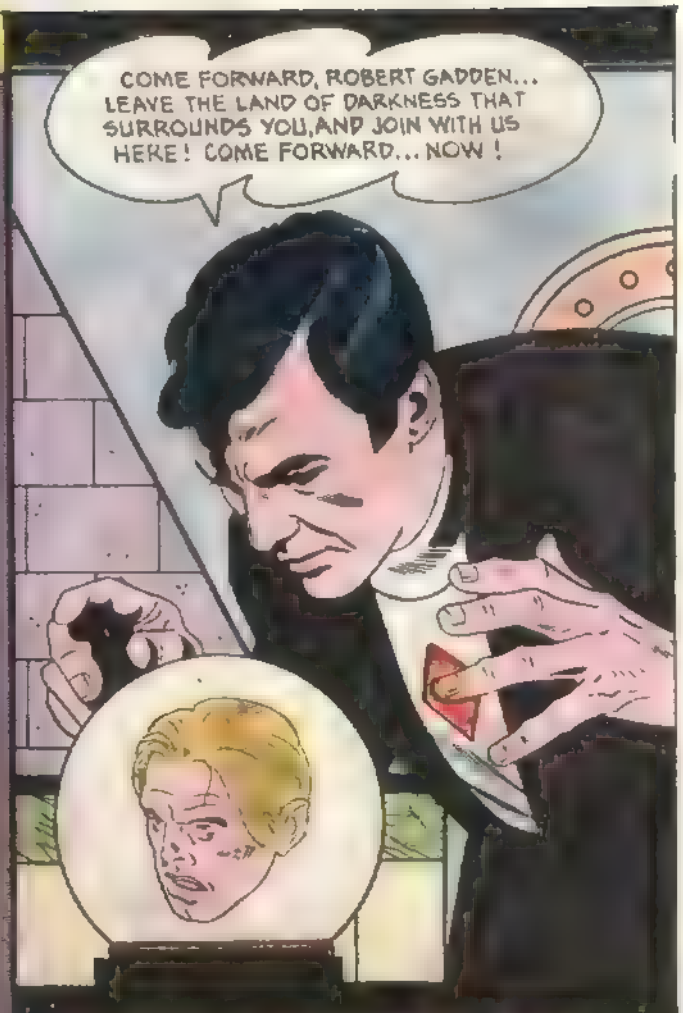
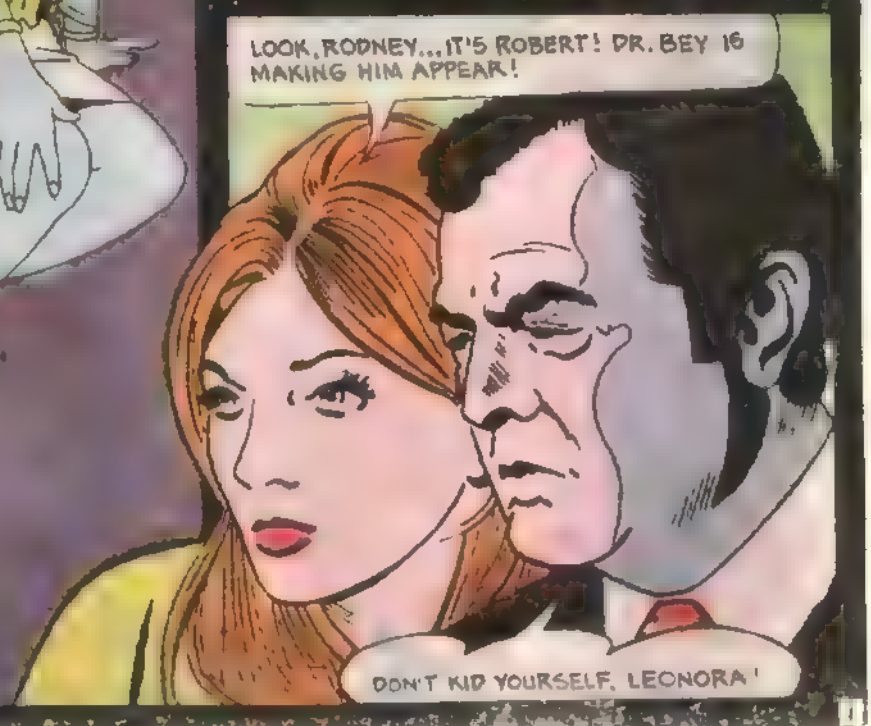
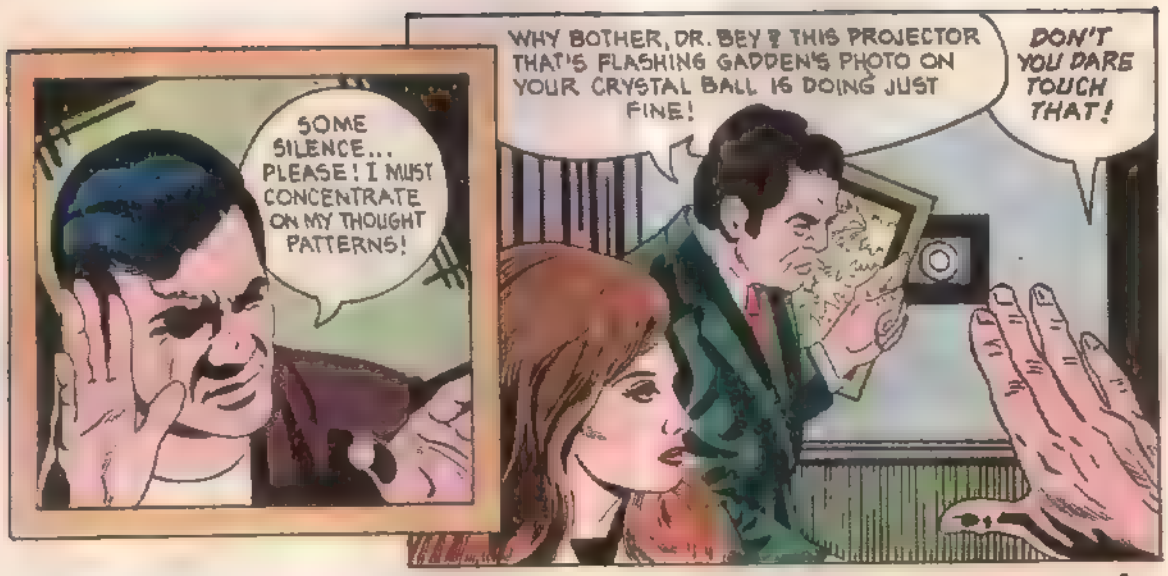
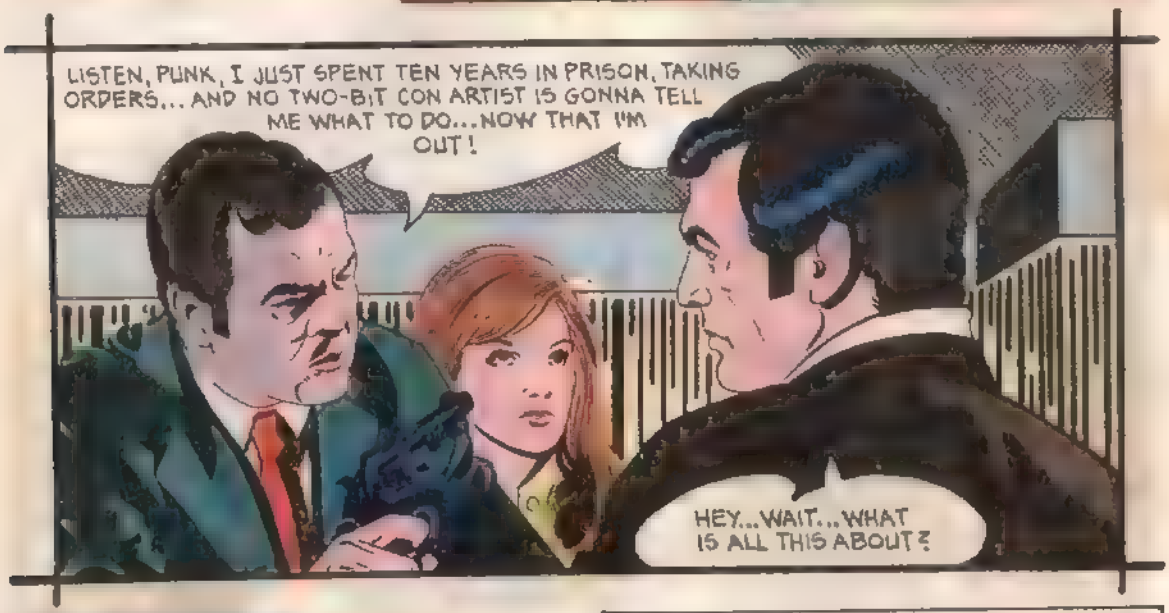





SOME SILENCE... PLEASE! I MUST CONCENTRATE ON MY THOUGHT PATTERNS!
WHY BOTHER, DR. BEY? THIS PROJECTOR THAT'S FLASHING GADDEN'S PHOTO ON YOUR CRYSTAL BALL IS DOING JUST FINE!
DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH THAT!


LISTEN, PUNK, I JUST SPENT TEN YEARS IN PRISON, TAKING ORDERS... AND NO TWO-BIT CON ARTIST IS GONNA TELL ME WHAT TO DO... NOW THAT I'M OUT!
HEY... WAIT... WHAT IS ALL THIS ABOUT?

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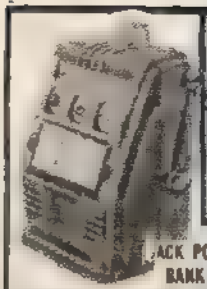

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Dime operates one armed Bandit" works As those in Las Vegas. Decoy dime pull handle and walk away like the real thing Dimes are recoverable Should not be used for gambling.

No 7080 $1.69

MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA

Precision camera so small, it fits in cigarette pack. We give 2½ ounces and takes 10 pictures per roll. Precision ground lens and time expose shutter. Can be hidden anywhere. Complete with free roll of film.

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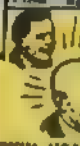
4 Rolls Film $1.00



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Deck is marked and stripped. Can be read from the back but looks like ordinary deck. With instructions for 10 terrific tricks.

No. 183 $1.98

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WITH COMBINATION LOCK ONLY YOU CAN OPEN

Looks like any book to camouflage your valuables. Securely locked with your own private combination. Tough under-structure is covered with simulated leather binding.

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Results in just 30 days

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No. 7085 only $1.00

SURPRISE PACKAGE

Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you won't be willing to gamble we'll give you more than your money's worth.

No 678 Only 50c

JOY BUZZER

Window novelty you wear like a ring. Your victim gets a "SHOCKING" hand shake. Absolutely harmless.

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Light one and watch the column of thick white smoke rise to the ceiling and expand into a dense cloud. Sensational surprising effect.

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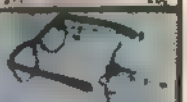
XRAY SPECS AN HILARIOUS OPTICAL ILLUSION ONLY $1.00

Scientific optical principle easily works. With Xray Specs you seem to be able to look through clothes and see the bones underneath. Look at your friends and their body you see underneath.

No. PL7 $1.00



SEE BEHIND GLASSES

A specially treated pair of sunglasses with special mirrors that enable you to see behind you without anyone knowing that you're watching.

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Insert a blank piece of paper form the record and OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL. Insert the dollar and it changes to a $5 then the $5 changes to $10. A135 1.98

THROW YOUR VOICE

Throw your voice into cupboards, behind doors everywhere. Fills a room with out of sight. Fool teacher, friends, family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist."

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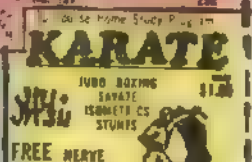


KARATE

JUDO BOXING SAVATE ESKIMO TRICKS STUNTS

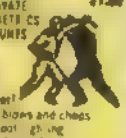
$1.00

FREE NERVE CENTER CHART

Here's what you get:

- 20 Best KARATE blows and chops
- SAVATE French foot fighting
- Nerve Center disability chart
- JUDO throws and TRICKS Holds
- Complete muscle building course
- Insurance exercise and LOTS MORE

NO 73 $1.00



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Rush me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days FREE TRIAL for full refund of purchase price.

We cannot accept orders totaling less than $1.00.

NAME & NUMBER OF ITEM	HOW MANY	TOTAL PRICE

Please add 25c to total order for postage and handling.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

For COD orders please send 50c good will deposit. Pay postman the balance on delivery plus COD and handling charges.

NAME

ADDRESS ZIP

New York State residents add appropriate sales tax

MONSTER S-I-Z-E MONSTERS

7 FEET TALL

In Authentic Colors With GLOW in the DARK EYES

ONLY $1.00

TEN DAY FREE TRIAL

Just imagine your friends shock when they walk into your room and see the "Monster" reaching out—bigger than life-Frankenstein, the original man-made monster, that creation of evil genius that terrorized the world. A giant 7 feet tall, his eyes glow eerily as his hand reaches out—as awful and sinister as the wildest nightmare. Yes—Frankenstein is 7 feet tall, in authentic colors on durable polystyrene, and so lifelike you'll probably find yourself talking to him. Won't you be surprised if he answers? Comes complete with eyes that glow even in the pitch dark for a special thrilling chill.

Boney the Skeleton. And then there is Boney—stark scary with nothing left but his bare bones. A 7 foot monster out of the grave—his bones white, his eyes staring—even glowing in the dark.

Money Back Guarantee.

Just send $1.00 plus 35c to cover postage and handling for each monster you want. Your money back if not satisfactorily horrified.

Honor House DP. 21MR88
Lynbrook N.Y. 11563

Rush me my 7 foot tall glow in the dark monsters. Send me ☐ Frankenstein ☐ Boney the Skeleton

I enclose $1 plus 35c for postage and handling for each. If I don't get shivers of delight I can return my purchase within 10 days and you will refund the full purchase price.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... STATE ..... ZIP .....

New York State Residents please add sales tax.

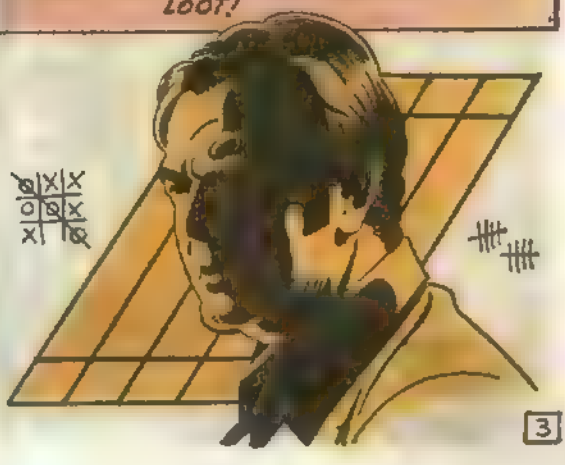
TEN YEARS AGO, I TEAMED UP WITH ROBERT GADDEN TO KNOCK OVER THE DOVER NATIONAL BANK! WE WORKED ON THE PLANS FOR MONTHS, AND FINALLY TUNNELED OUR WAY IN, AND GRABBED A COOL MILLION BUCKS IN CASH!

WE THOUGHT WE HAD IT MADE, BUT A SILENT ALARM PUT THE COPS ON OUR TAIL IN MINUTES! I FLOORED THE CAR, BUT COULDN'T CONTROL THE SPEED... AS WE CRASHED THROUGH A RAILING!

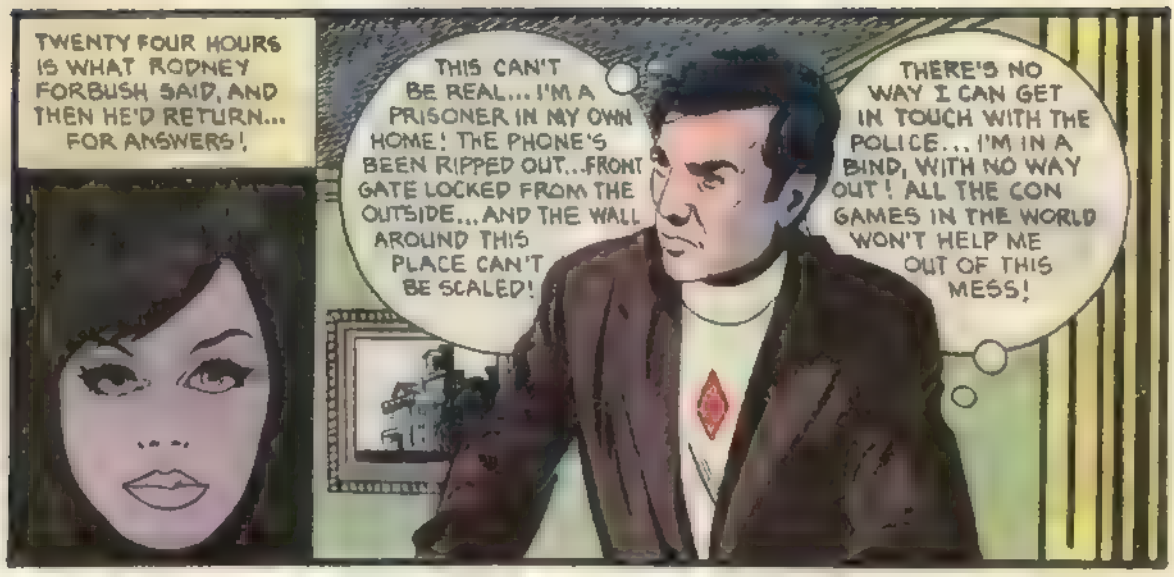
WE WERE BOTH THROWN CLEAR WITH THE MONEY, BUT I BROKE A LEG IN THE PROCESS! I TOLD GADDEN TO TAKE THE LOOT AND RUN...AND SAVE MY SHARE FOR ME!

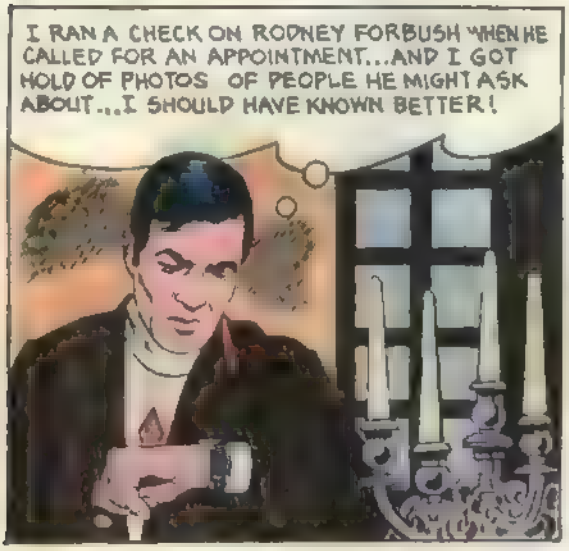
I CONVINCED THE COURT THAT I PULLED THE JOB SOLO, AND THAT THE MONEY BURNED IN THE CAR WRECK! THAT GOT ME A SOLID TEN YEARS... WITH NO CHANCE OF PAROLE!

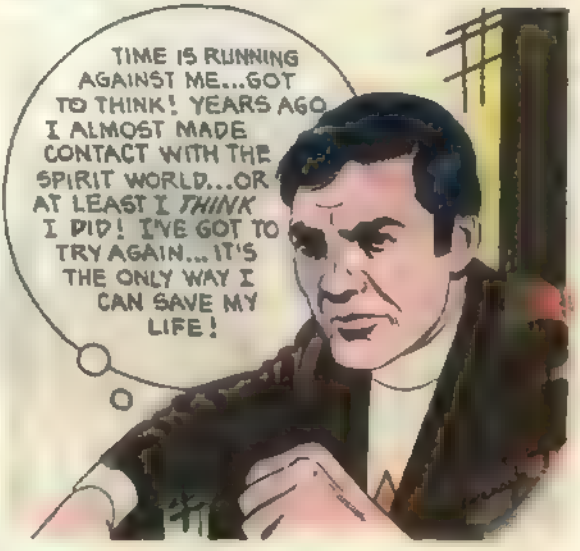
TEN YEARS FOR HALF A MILLION BUCKS WAS OKAY WITH ME, UNTIL I FOUND OUT, TWO YEARS LATER, THAT GADDEN DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES ...*AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE HE HID THE LOOT!*



I GET IT, NOW! YOU WANT ME TO MAKE ROBERT GADDEN APPEAR SO YOU CAN FIND OUT WHERE HE HID THE LOOT!
THAT'S IT, DR BEY! I DID A LOT OF READING IN STIR ABOUT THINGS SUPERNATURAL, AND COMMUNICATING WITH THE DEAD! ALL THE BOOKS CLAIM THAT YOU'RE THE LEADING MAN IN THAT FIELD!
BUT... THAT WAS YEARS AGO! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING SERIOUS IN QUITE SOME TIME! YOU... YOU'RE ASKING THE IMPOSSIBLE!
DON'T SAY THAT DR BEY! YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE!
I ADMIT, THAT I ONCE THOUGHT THE POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNICATING WITH THE DEAD, EXISTED, BUT THE SHEER CONCENTRATION INVOLVED MADE ME TURN TO THE GIMMICKS USED BY OTHER SPIRITUALISTS! NO.. I'M AFRAID I CANT HELP YOU!
LISTEN, PUNK, I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO PRODUCE ROBERT GADDEN, I'M TELLING YOU .. OR YOUR LIFE WON'T BE WORTH THE PRICE OF A NEW CRYSTAL BALL, GET ME?
YES.., YES... I GET YOU!
4

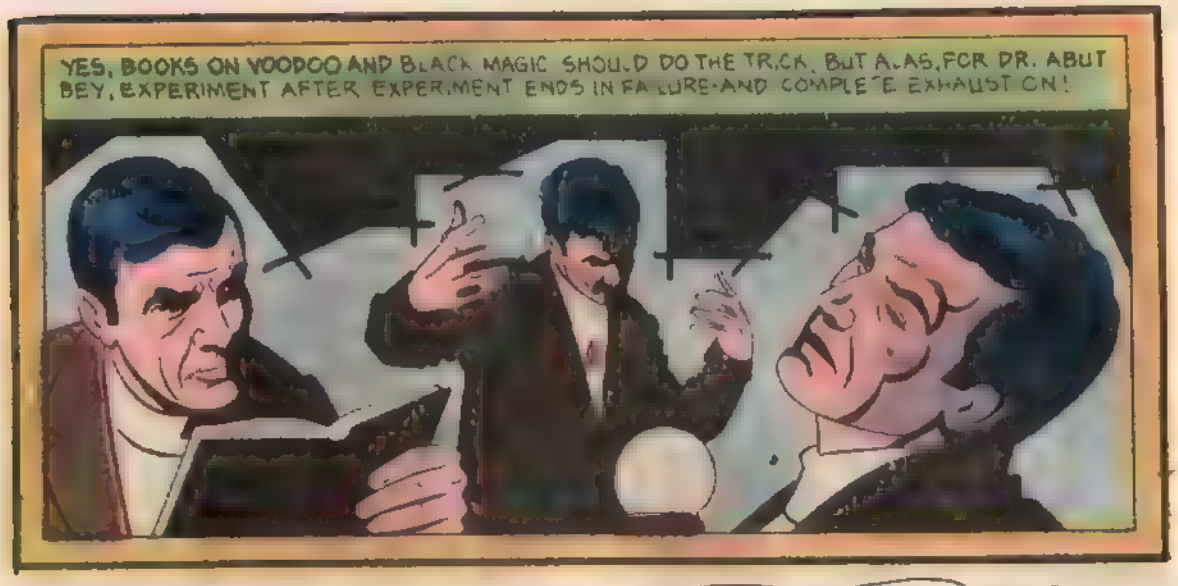

TWENTY FOUR HOURS IS WHAT RODNEY FORBUSH SAID, AND THEN HE'D RETURN... FOR ANSWERS!
THIS CAN'T BE REAL... I'M A PRISONER IN MY OWN HOME! THE PHONE'S BEEN RIPPED OUT...FRONT GATE LOCKED FROM THE OUTSIDE...AND THE WALL AROUND THIS PLACE CAN'T BE SCALED!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH THE POLICE... I'M IN A BIND, WITH NO WAY OUT! ALL THE CON GAMES IN THE WORLD WON'T HELP ME OUT OF THIS MESS!


I RAN A CHECK ON RODNEY FORBUSH WHEN HE CALLED FOR AN APPOINTMENT...AND I GOT HOLD OF PHOTOS OF PEOPLE HE MIGHT ASK ABOUT...I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER!

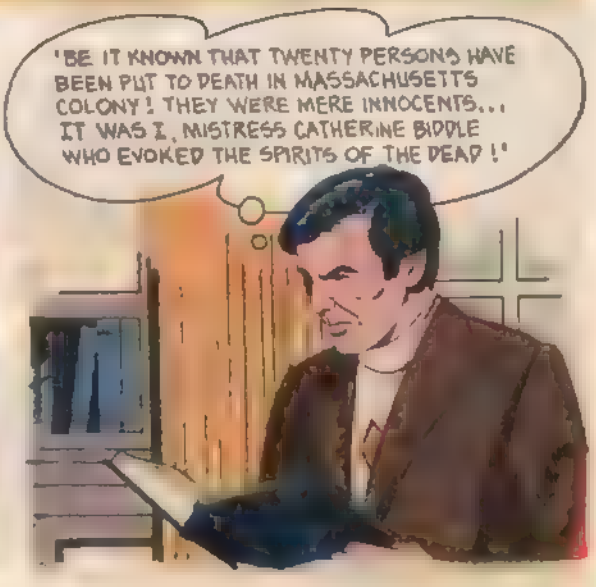

TIME IS RUNNING AGAINST ME...GOT TO THINK! YEARS AGO I ALMOST MADE CONTACT WITH THE SPIRIT WORLD...OR AT LEAST I *THINK* I DID! I'VE GOT TO TRY AGAIN... IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN SAVE MY LIFE!

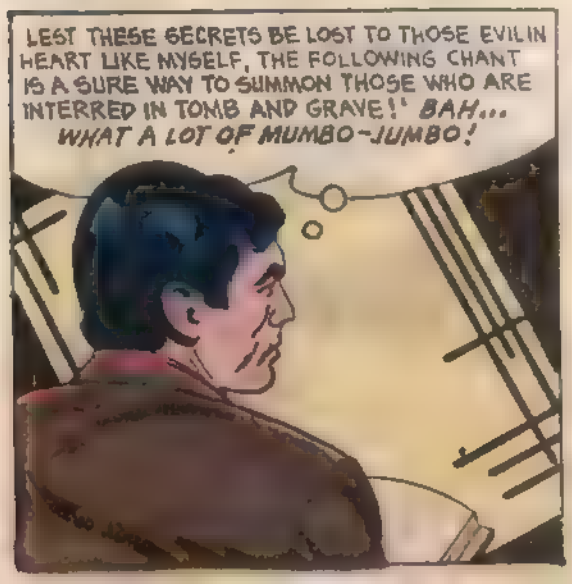
I HAD A SET OF BOOKS DEALING WITH THE BLACK ARTS, IN THE UPSTAIRS LIBRARY...GOT TO CHECK!

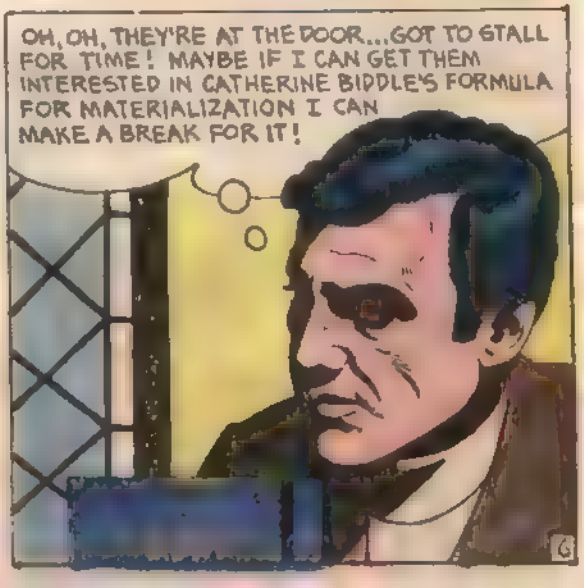
THERE THEY ARE...VOODOO, BLACK MAGIC... GOT TO GET STARTED...CAN'T WASTE ANY TIME!
5


YES, BOOKS ON VOODOO AND BLACK MAGIC SHOULD DO THE TRICK, BUT ALAS, FOR DR. ABUT BEY, EXPERIMENT AFTER EXPERIMENT ENDS IN FAILURE-AND COMPLETE EXHAUSTION!

CAN'T LAST MUCH LONGER... THIS IS THE ONLY BOOK I HAVEN'T READ..' THE DIARY OF MISTRESS BIDDLE, WITCH!'


'BE IT KNOWN THAT TWENTY PERSONS HAVE BEEN PUT TO DEATH IN MASSACHUSETTS COLONY! THEY WERE MERE INNOCENTS... IT WAS I, MISTRESS CATHERINE BIDDLE WHO EVOKED THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD!'


LEST THESE SECRETS BE LOST TO THOSE EVIL IN HEART LIKE MYSELF, THE FOLLOWING CHANT IS A SURE WAY TO SUMMON THOSE WHO ARE INTERRED IN TOMB AND GRAVE!' BAH... WHAT A LOT OF MUMBO-JUMBO!


OH, OH, THEY'RE AT THE DOOR... GOT TO STALL FOR TIME! MAYBE IF I CAN GET THEM INTERESTED IN CATHERINE BIDDLE'S FORMULA FOR MATERIALIZATION I CAN MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!

TIME'S UP, DR BEY, AN' YOU BETTER HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS FOR ME, OR YOU'RE GONNA BE MIGHTY SORRY!
YES, COME IN... YOU'RE JUST IN TIME!
OH, YEAH? IN TIME FOR WHAT?
AN EXPERIMENT I WAS ABOUT TO CONDUCT! BE SEATED, PLEASE... I THINK I CAN MAKE GADDEN APPEAR!
HEAR ME, FORCES OF DARKNESS... HEAR MY INCANTATION THAT WILL SUMMON THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE! CAST ASIDE THE SHADOWS THAT BIND YOU! HEAR ME... HEAR ME!
RODNEY... DO YOU THINK HE CAN DO IT ... I MEAN... REALLY DO IT?
I DON'T KNOW... THIS COULD BE A STALL!
I ENJOIN ALL YE PRESENT TO JOIN WITH ME IN A CHANT TO SATAN! IN THOSE DARK HALLS OF HELL, WANDER SPIRITS WHICH HERE DID DWELL... COME YE BACK TO LIFE ONCE MORE, JOIN US NOW AS YE DID OF YORE!
SOME... SOMETHING'S HAPPENING!

SO, EVEN AS AN AMAZED DR. BEY CONTINUES TO READ THE CHANT, A FORM APPEARS, AND BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE!
IS...IS THAT ROBERT? CAN YOU MAKE IT OUT?
I...I'M NOT SURE! IT COULD BE HIM!
NO... IT'S A WOMAN! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHO IS SHE?
YOU'RE... CATHERINE BIDDLE, AREN'T YOU?
OF COURSE, I'VE WAITED 300 YEARS FOR SOMEONE TO CHANT THOSE LINES EXACTLY RIGHT! NOW, TAKE ME TO AN EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT WHERE WE CAN EAT AND TALK!
AS FOR YOU TWO... YOUR FRIEND DEPOSITED THE STOLEN LOOT IN A BANK, BUT WHEN HE DIED WITHOUT NAMING A NEXT OF KIN, THE MONEY WENT TO THE STATE! IT WAS USED TO HELP BUILD A NEW PRISON!
END

THE GHOST RETURNS

I know that I am dead. I even went to my funeral. I rode on top of the hearse that took my coffin and body to the cemetery. Of course there were a lot of people present. Including members of the press. And a sermon was given by the Rev. Thomas Bumster. About what a wonderful man the late Michael Woods had been. Maybe what he said contained some element of truth in it. But now that I am dead I have been doing some reflection.

Millions of people, while alive have thought this one same idea. If I could only live my life over again. I wouldn't make the same foolish mistakes again. But that means if they did have such a chance they would also have to be able to look into the past. Not start a new life with a clean slate.

Just now I haven't the slightest inkling why I, either a spirit or a ghost, should be able to come back and look over the scene. On Monday I went to the auction house. Everything I had in my apartment was being sold. Why? That is what puzzled me very much. There was my collection of antique chairs. And the rugs that had been hand made for me in the Orient. An old man bought the chairs. And a rather stout matronly woman bought the rugs.

When it was all over and the monies paid and the goods taken away, I followed the auctioneer into his office. And what a surprise I had. For next to them was my late partner, Herman Jafel and my secretary, Helen Marks. He gave a sum of money, less expenses to my late partner.

"That should help you pay the debts of the late Michael Woods," he said. "Good thing you did your best to keep the stain off his name."

And suddenly as though a revelation had taken place, I understand what it was all about. My partner and my secretary had framed me. They had looted the business. She had kept two sets of business books. They thought I had become suspicious and decided to put me out of the way. I had been shot in the back of my head with a .22 bullet. Then my body was placed in my car. My partner drove the car to Clifftown. Helen Marks followed in another car. Then off the cliff my car was pushed. It burned and my body was also partly burned. So that the coroner's report was simple: Death as a result of injuries suffered by crash and by burns. He had never thought of checking for anything else.

Then I knew why I had been sent back. But I didn't know if it had ever happened to other people. I could go through walls and travel quickly. My partner would get the business insurance and own the entire firm. The two had to be punished for my death. I knew where the crooked books were kept. In my secretary's home. Hidden behind a row of books.

I went to the office and opened the safe. Took out the set of books that would be shown to the accountant. Then went to Helen Marks' home. Put them behind the row of books. And took these crooked books back to the office and put them into the safe. I looked around the office for something that should be there. I had been shot by a small .22 automatic pistol. That meant that the small empty shell had been ejected. And my partner had overlooked it.

Then I waited. Two days later the two accountants came to check over the books.

"There have been erasures and falsifications," said one to the other. "The handwriting is that of the secretary."

She said she had been told by me to make them. But that didn't satisfy the two accountants. They felt that this was a matter for the D. A. to investigate. Then my partner made his big mistake. He offered them a bribe to keep quiet. To not permit my name to be dragged into the mud.

"You can't put the blame on a dead man," said one accountant to him.

Two days later my partner and the secretary were being questioned at the D. A.'s office. I could do everything but speak! I had with me that empty .22 shell. When my partner went to get his wallet, I dropped the shell on the floor. The D. A. picked it up.

"Mr. Jafel," he said. "Do you have a pistol? We can find that out anyway. I want to see it."

A court order was obtained. My body was exhumed and the small bullet in the back of my head removed. Test firings were made with that .22 automatic pistol. It was established that the gun had been used to kill me. My partner made a full confession and so did my secretary. Justice had been accomplished! Now I could return to the land of the Dead.

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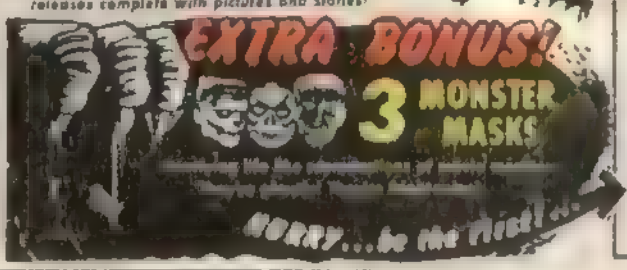

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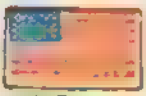
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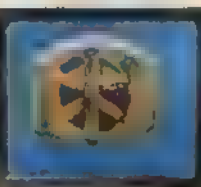

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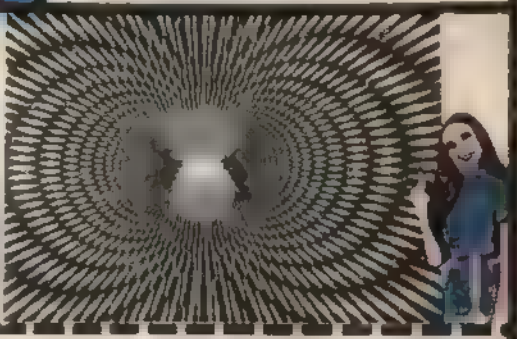

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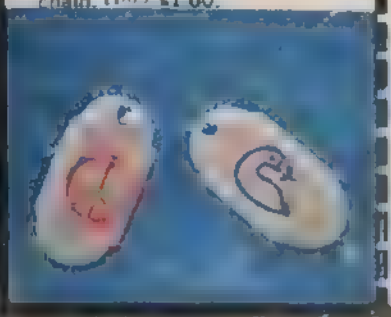

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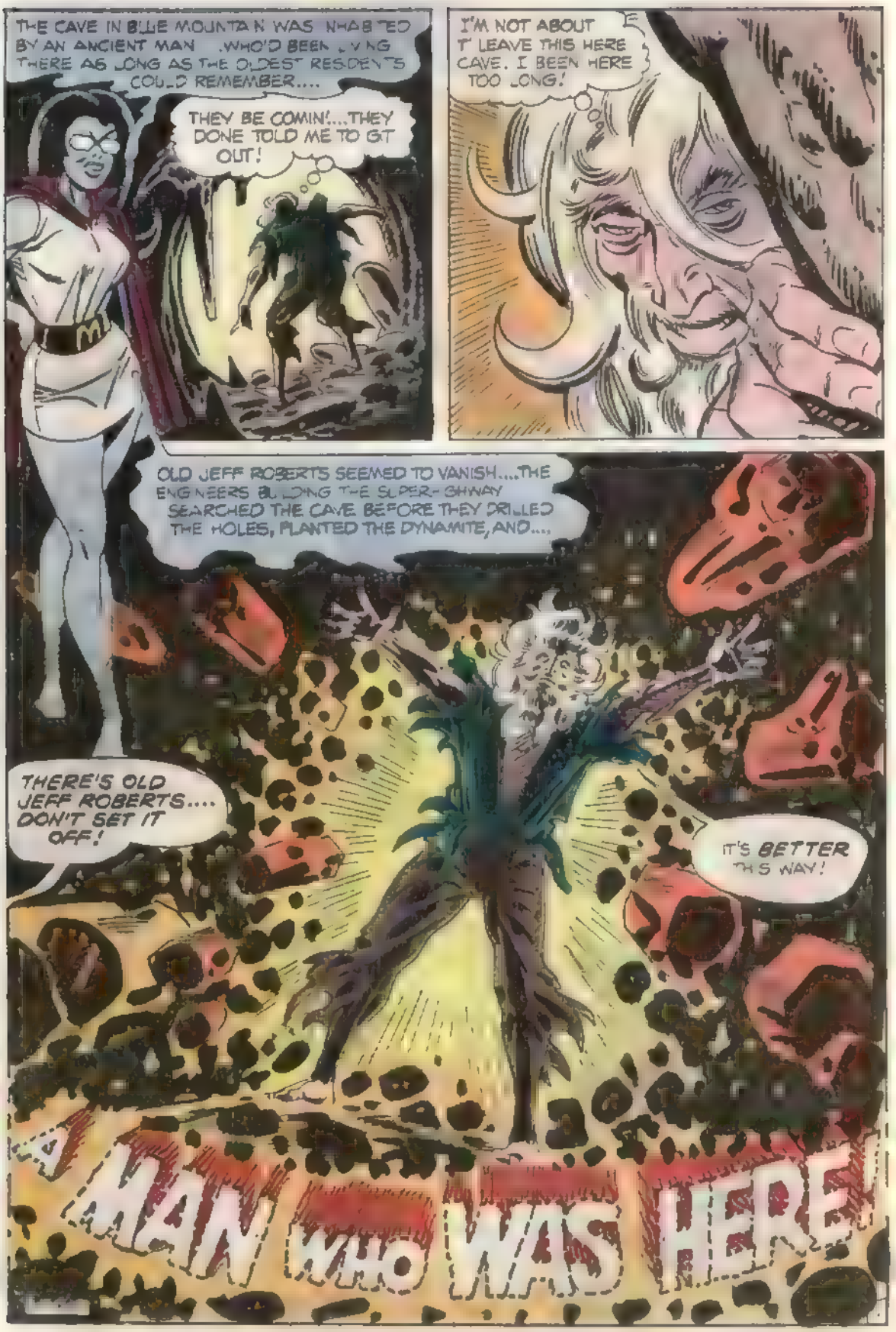
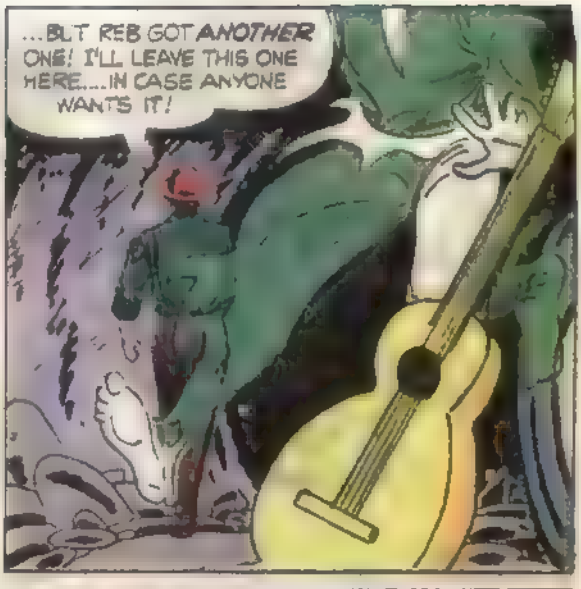

THE CAVE IN BLUE MOUNTAIN WAS INHABITED BY AN ANCIENT MAN ..WHO'D BEEN LIVING THERE AS LONG AS THE OLDEST RESIDENTS COULD REMEMBER....
THEY BE COMIN'...THEY DONE TOLD ME TO GIT OUT!
I'M NOT ABOUT T' LEAVE THIS HERE CAVE. I BEEN HERE TOO LONG!
OLD JEFF ROBERTS SEEMED TO VANISH....THE ENGINEERS BUILDING THE SUPER-SHWAY SEARCHED THE CAVE BEFORE THEY DRILLED THE HOLES, PLANTED THE DYNAMITE, AND....
THERE'S OLD JEFF ROBERTS.... DON'T SET IT OFF!
IT'S BETTER THIS WAY!
MAN WHO WAS HERE

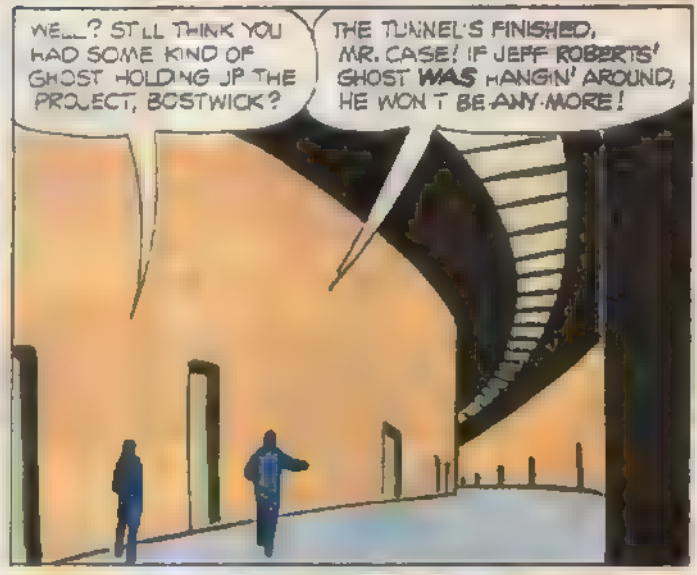
THERE GOES OLD JEFF. .
NICE GOING, BOSTWICK! I WARNED YOU TO CLEAR THE AREA BEFORE USING DYNAMITE!
I HAD THE FOREMAN CHECK OUT EVERY INCH OF THE CAVE, MR. CASE! I TELL YOU THE CAVE WAS EMPTY!
TRY TO FIND HIS REMAINS BOSTWICK.. . WE'LL GIVE HIM DECENT BURIAL.. . I'LL NOTIFY THE POLICE!
WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW FER SURE THE OL' MAN IS DEAD. YOU BUILD THE ROAD, MR. CASE, I'LL KEEP A-LOOKIN' FER OL' JEFF!
BUT THE POLICE WERE PRETTY STUFFY ABOUT OLD JEFF'S DEATH.
I ONLY GOT YOUR WORD FOR IT, MR. CASE BUT WE CAN'T FIND NO BODY! I'M NOT REPORTIN' NO DEATH TILL I SEE THE CORPSE!

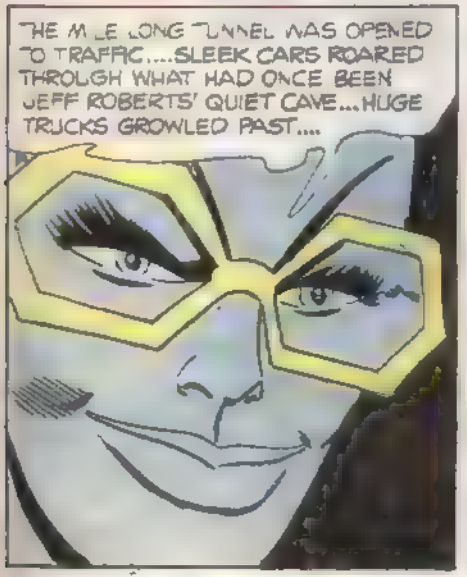
IT HAPPENED GRADUALLY! AS THE SUPERHIGHWAY FOLLOWED THROUGH ANCIENT FORESTS AND SLICED THROUGH GRANITE HILLS, THE MEN WHO BUILT IT BECAME AWARE OF CERTAIN WEIRD EVENTS ...
REB PUT DOWN THAT GUITAR, I WANT TO SHOW YOU THE AREA I WANT YOUR GANG TO CLEAR TOMORROW!
OKAY, BOSS!
AWRIGHT, YANKEE, WHERE'S MY G.T-TAR?
I DIDN'T SEE YOUR STUPID NOISE-MAKER BUT I SURE HOPE IT'S M.SSIN' FOR GOOD!
I'LL POUND YA TO A PULP, YANK! UNGH!
NO REDNECK GEORGIA COTTONPICKER'S GONNA POUND ME TO A....OOOFF!
LISTEN, REB AIN'T THAT YOUR GUITAR I HEAR?
LISTEN! WHOEVER TOOK IT SURE KNOWS OLD-TIME MOUNTAIN MUSIC! I AIN'T HEERED THAT TUNE SINCE I WAS A BOY!

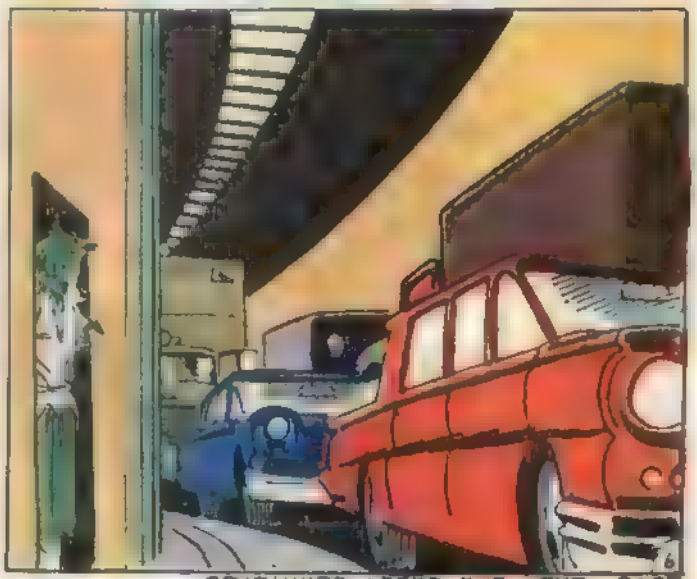
WHERE THE HERMIT'S CAVE HAD BEEN, THEY BUILT A WIDER, DEEPER CAVE ... THERE'D BE A MILE LONG TUNNEL THROUGH BLUE MOUNTAIN HERE!
WHAT'S HOLDING YOU UP BOSTWICK?
WEIRD THINGS KEEP HAPPENING, MR. CASE! SOMEBODY DRAINED THE FUEL OUT OF THE TRACTORS....THEN SOMEBODY BLASTED A ROCK SLIDE THAT HELD US UP!
WHOEVER'S DOING IT IS CAREFUL THAT NO ONE GETS HURT....I'VE HAD MEN GUARDING THE MACHINERY. ..AND IT HAPPENED ANYHOW ...
....ALMOST AS THOUGH THE GUY DOING IT IS INVISIBLE!
I'VE DOUBLED THE SECURITY GUARD MR. CASE! THERE WON'T BE ANY MORE INCIDENTS!
BOSTWICK, YOU'RE A FOOL!
CLICK
WHO DID THAT? SOMEONE START THE EMERGENCY GENERATOR!
HEEE
HEEE
HEE
4

THERE'S THE MASTER SWITCH MR. CASE....IT'S STILL IN THE "OFF" POSITION....YOU WERE LOOKING RIGHT AT IT!
ALL RIGHT . I'M AS PUZZLED AS YOU ARE BOSTWICK!
WE'RE GOING TO GET THIS TUNNEL BUILT ON TIME!
HEEHEEHEEHEE
THEY DIDN'T... OLD JEFF ROBERTS PLAYED HIS PRANKS BUT AT TIMES HE SEEMED TO ENJOY THIS NEW KIND OF EXISTENCE....IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO CALL IT!
OH, THEY CAME TO BUILD A ROAD INTO THE HILLS AN T-EV AIMED IT THROUGH JEFF ROBERTS' CAVE F
ON A QUIET NIGHT JEFF ROBERTS STILL KEEPS SINGIN' FROM WAY BEYOND THE GRAVE.
KEEPS SINGIN' FROM WAY BEYOND THE GRAVE!
IT....IT'S HIM! I GOT 'IM THIS TIME!
DAVE BOSTWICK CREPT SILENTLY TO THE TRACTOR, THEN SPRANG OUT AND .
NN-WHERE DID HE GO? HE COULDN'T GET AWAY.
HEE HEEE
5




WE...? STILL THINK YOU HAD SOME KIND OF GHOST HOLDING UP THE PROJECT, BOSTWICK?
THE TUNNEL'S FINISHED, MR. CASE! IF JEFF ROBERTS' GHOST WAS HANGIN' AROUND, HE WON'T BE ANY-MORE!


THE MILE LONG TUNNEL WAS OPENED TO TRAFFIC....SLEEK CARS ROARED THROUGH WHAT HAD ONCE BEEN JEFF ROBERTS' QUIET CAVE....HUGE TRUCKS GROWLED PAST....



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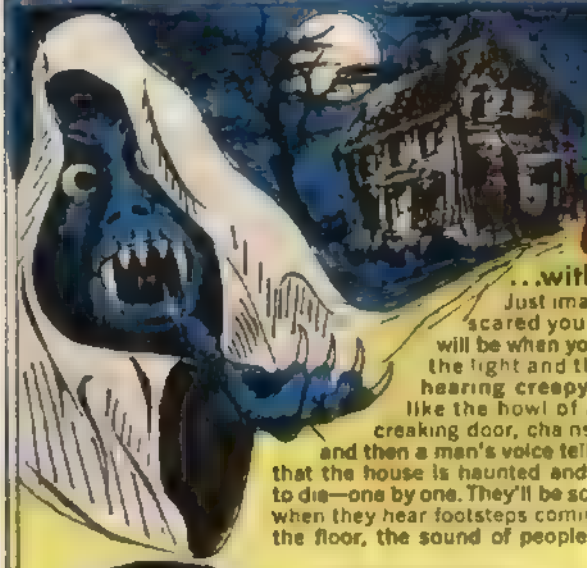

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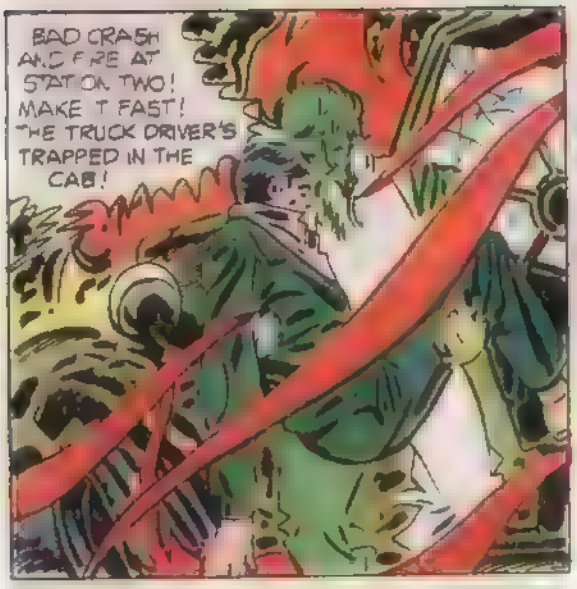
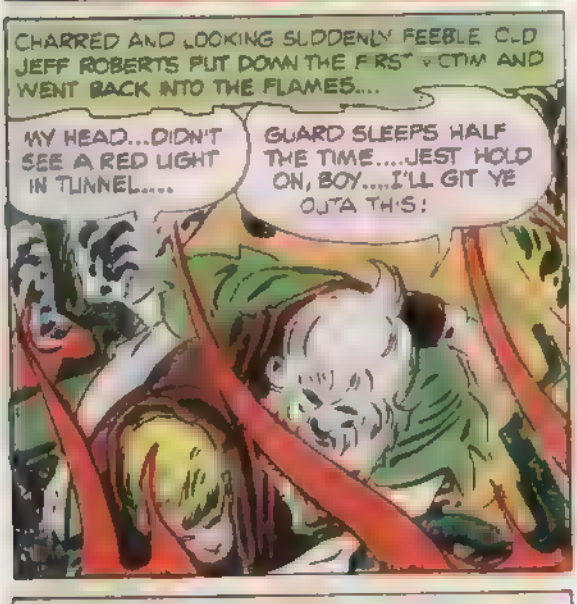
LOOK OUT!
I COULD'VE SWORN I SAW. ...I GUESS I'D BETTER GET MORE SLEEP!
THEN ONE NIGHT IT HAPPENED....A GUARD FELL ASLEEP.... A CAR STALLED.... AND A TANK TRUCK SAW THE STALLED CAR TOO LATE!
MY GOD, THEY'LL BURN TO DEATH!
PEARS LIKE THEY'S TROUBLE I DIDN'T CAUSE THIS TIME!
7


BAD CRASH AND FIRE AT STATION TWO! MAKE IT FAST! THE TRUCK DRIVER'S TRAPPED IN THE CAB!

IT'S HIM....THE OLD GEEZER I SEEN BEFORE!


CHARRED AND LOOKING SUDDENLY FEEBLE OLD JEFF ROBERTS PUT DOWN THE FIRST VICTIM AND WENT BACK INTO THE FLAMES....
MY HEAD...DIDN'T SEE A RED LIGHT IN TUNNEL....
GUARD SLEEPS HALF THE TIME....JEST HOLD ON, BOY....I'LL GIT YE OUTA THIS!

THERE'S THE MAN WHO SAVED THEM BOTH! HE'S BURNED WORST OF ALL!
I'LL TREAT HIM NEXT!

BUT NO ONE TREATED OLD JEFF ROBERTS....AS THE DOCTOR REACHED FOR HIM, THE OLD HERMIT VANISHED..
WHERE DID HE GO?
THAT WAS OLD JEFF, DOCTOR HE WAS BLOWED UP THE DAY THEY STARTED THIS TUNNEL THROUGH BLUE MOUNTAIN!

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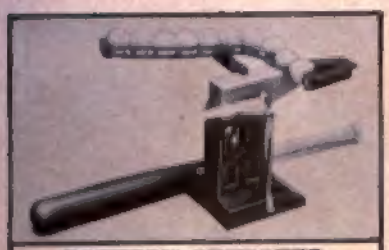

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